

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOMBAY 01039 261223Z

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ACTION OES-06

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STADIS////////////////////////////////

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: TECH IN

SUBJ: TARAPUR

REF: STATE 98052

1. THERE FOLLOWS A LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN SETHNA TOGETHER WITH AN ATTACHMENT RESPONSIVE TO REFTEL REQUESTING THE INDIAN AEC'S COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT OF HOYLE AFFIDAVIT WHICH THE DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO SEND TO THE NRC. THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOTE IN SETHNA'S COVERING LETTER THAT SOME OF HIS SUGGESTEDHREVISIONS STEM FROM A PROBLEM THAT DEVELOPED ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO AT TARAPUR AND HAS CONTINUED SINCE THEN. THE INDIAN AEC IS NOW PRETTY WELL CONVINCED THAT BECAUSE OF OFF-GAS AND WATER REACTOR ACTIVITY UFD UNIT ONE THE NEXT RECHARGE OF THAT UNIT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY REQUIRE OVER 100 FUEL BUNDLES. OTHERWISE CHAIRMAN SETHNA'S COMMENTS ARE QUITE STRAIGHTFORWARD AND ARE NOT EXTENSIVE. QUOTE. DEAR MR COURTNEY, I ENCLOSE OUR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED NEW AFFIDAVIT OF MR D.B.HOYLE ON BEHALF OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, SEND UNDER COVER OF YOUR LETTERS 2 AND 3 OF APRIL 23, 1976.

WE HAVE REFERRED TO THE UNCERTAINTY IN THE NUMBER OF FUEL BUNDLES REQUIRED WHICH RESULTS FROM THE PRESENCE OF LEAKERS IN THE RACTOR. IT SEEMS FROM THE LATEST OPERATIONAL DATA REGARDING THE ACTIVITY OF OFF-GAS AND REACTOR WATER THAT LEAKERS HAVE UNFORTUNATELY

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PAGE 02 BOMBAY 01039 261223Z

DEVELOPED ABOUT A FORTNIGHT AGO IN UNIT-I. I THOUGHT IT WILL BE

USEFUL FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE NRC EXPERTS TO BEAR THIS IN MIND IN CONSIDERING THE ISSUE.

YOURS SINCERELY, (SIGNED) H.N.SETHNA.

ENCLOSURE: SERIATIM COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT AFFIDAVIT OF MR D.B.

HOYLE COMMUNICATED BY STATE DEPARTMENT ON APRIL 23, 1976.

PARAGRAPHS 1, 2, AND 3: NO COMMENTS.

PARAGRAPH 4: AS MENTIONED EARLIER, THE TIME NEEDED BETWEEN AVAILABILITY OF FRESH UF6 AT NFC AND DELIVERY EX-NFC OF APPROXIMATELY 70 BUNDLES IS NINE MONTHS UNDER OPTIMUM CONDITIONS.

PARAGRAPHS 5 AND 6: GENERALLY NO COMMENTS EXCEPT THAT ADDITION OF THE PHRASE "AFTER RECEIPT OF FRESH UF6 IN VARIOUS ENRICHMENTS AS NEEDED" AT THE END OF PARAGRAPH 6 AFTER THE WORDS "ESSENTIALLY A COMPLETE YEAR" WOULD CLARIFY THE POINT.

PARAGRAPH 7: NO COMMENTS.

PARAGRAPH 8: IN THE SECOND LINE THE WORD "FUEL" SHOULD BE REPLACED BY "UF6 TO NFC". THE PHRASE WOULD THEN READ "THE REQUIRED DELIVERY DATE FOR UF6 TO NFC TO MEET T--4-074 43-(594 4317843-MENTS...."

PARAGRAPH 9: NO COMMENTS.

PARAGRAPH 10: THE SENTENCE BEGINNING IN THE TENTH LINE "THE ANTICIPATED DISRUPTION OF PRODUCTION... BY APPROXIMATELY THE END OF MARCH...." COULD BE MORE SUITABLY WORDED AS FOLLOWS:

"THE DISRUPTION OF NORMAL PRODUCTION WAS ANTICIPATED BECAUSE BY APPROXIMATELY THE END OF MARCH...."

PARAGRAPH 11: NO COMMENTS.

PARAGRAPH 12: THE FIRST SENTENCE SHOULD BE REWORDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

A. EXCLUDING THE INVENTORY IN 200 FINISHED BUNDLES REFERRED IN PARAGRAPH 11, THE NFC IN-PROCESS INVENTORY WOULD BE DOWN TO ABOUT 12,600 KG OF URANIUM IN SCRAP, PELLETS AND RODS, IN ALL ENRICHMENTS, WERE NO NEW FRESH FEED DELIVERED BY THEN.

B. IN THE PENULTIMATE SENTENCE OF THIS PARAGRAPH THE NUMBER OF BUNDLES LIMITED BY AVAILABLE MATERIAL SHOULD BE "ABOUT 45 BUNDLES" AND NOT "ABOUT 50 BUNDLES".

PARAGRAPH 13: NO COMMENTS.

PARAGRAPH 14: IN THE PENULTIMATE SENTENCE OF THIS PARAGRAPH THE ARITHMETIC IS NOT VERY CLEAR. SLE SUGGEST REWORDING AS FOLLOWS:

"IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, THE NUMBER OF DEFECTIVE FUEL ELEMENTS IN EACH UNIT WAS SUCH AS TO NEED, ON THE AVERAGE, 45 ADDITIONAL BUNDLES ABOVE THE MINIMAL RELOAD LEVEL, THIS EXCESS OF 90 BUNDLES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BOMBAY 01039 261223Z

WOULD DISAPPEAR."

PARAGRAPH 15: THE ARGUMENT DEVELOPED IN HIS PARAGRAPH NEEDS TO BE SLIGHTLY ALTERED. THE PARAGRAPH IS RECAST AS FOLLOWS: AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, THE ORIGINAL TEXT HAS BEEN RETAINED.

THE NUMBER OF FUEL BUNDLES REQUIRED DURING THE SECOND AND THIRD RELOADING OF BOTH TARAPUR UNITS RANGED FROM 68 TO 118. IT IS NORMAL OPERATING PRACTICE NOT TO BEGIN TAPS REACTOR RELOADING UNLESS A MINIMUM OF 100 BUNDLES IS ON HAND (TO AVOID HAVING TO

SHUT DOWN A SECOND TIME PRIOR TO THE SUBSEQUENT SCHEDULED RE-LOADING IF A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF DEFECTIVE FUEL ELEMENTS ARE FOUND OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, TO AVOID HAVING TO OPERATE WITH KNOWN LEAKERS IN THE NEXT CYCLE). ASSUMING ONE OF THE NEXT TWO OUTAGES, SAY, THAT OF JULY 1976 NEEDS 70 BUNDLES AND THE OTHER, I.E., OF JANUARY 1977 REQUIRES 40 BUNDLES THUS IF EFFECT PROVIDING A MORE PROBABLE SITUATION THAN THAT OF EITHER EXTREMES MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH 14, THEN 45 BUNDLES WILL REMAIN AFTER THE UNIT-I RELOADING OF JANUARY 1977. AS INDICATED PREVIOUSLY, ANOTHER 10 TO 15 BUNDLES PRODUCED FROM "SCRAP ONLY" OPERATIONS MIGHT BE READY FOR DESPATCH FROM NFC TO TAPS BY LATE AUGUST TO EARLY SEPTEMBER 1977. ALLOWING A MONTH FOR DELIVERY, SOME 55 TO 70 BUNDLES WOULD THEN BE AVAILABLE ON ABOUT OCTOBER 1, 1977 FOR THE UNIT-II RELOADING NOW SCHEDULED FOR JULY 1977. SINCE THIS WILL FALL CONSIDERABLY SHORT OF THE QUANTITY NEEDED PRIOR TO COMMENCING A REFUELLING, TAPS MAY PREFER TO REDUCE OUTPUT FROM ANY TIME AFTER OCTOBER 1976 SO AS TO CONTINUE THE CYCLE UP TO DECEMBER 1976 BY WHICH TIME AT LEAST 90 BUNDLES INSTEAD OF THE 100 CONSIDERED PRUDENT WOULD BE AVAILABLE. IN ANY EVENT, FROM THAT POINT ON - IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY FURTHER AND TIMELY FRESH FEED DELIVERIES TO NFC - THERE WILL BE NO POSSIBILITY OF ANY FURTHER REFUELLING OF EITHER UNIT.

PARAGRAPH 16: THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE SHOULD BE INSERTED AFTER THE SENTENCE READING "SUCH REDUCTION COULD BEGIN BY LATE 1976" (ABOUT TENTH LINE FROM END)/ "ANTICIPATION OF A SIMILAR EVENTUALITY MAY REQUIRE REDUCTION IN UNIT-I OUTPUT FROM SPRING, 1977."

PARAGRAPH 17:

A. THE WORDS "A VIRTUAL CERTAINTY" INSTEAD OF "AN EVER-INCREASING PROBABILITY" APPROXIMATELY HALF WAY THROUGH THIS PARAGRAPH, WILL LEND GREATER EMPHASIS TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF A CONTINUING ABSENCE OF NEW DELIVERY OF FRESH MATERIAL.

B. THE LATEST DATE BY WHICH SHIPMENTS SHOULD BEGIN TO LEAVE THE US LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 BOMBAY 01039 261223Z

SHOULD BE NO LATER THAN EARLY JUNE 1976 RATHER THAN EARLY JULY 1976.

END QUOTE.

COURTNEY

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